



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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Special programs for detainees

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Force - Iraq provides multiple opportunities for more than 24,000 detainees in its care and custody to participate in educational, vocational and religious programs while detained in Theater Internment Facilities (TIF) here.

Upon arrival to a TIF, detainees are evaluated to determine their education and training levels, work experience and work interests, and religious alignment. The evaluation provides a better understanding of the individuals in detention and their potential for inclusion in detainee reintegration programs.

The evaluation process consistently reveals that many detainees have had little or no education, are under-employed and have only a basic understanding of their Islamic faith. The programs are designed to address deficiencies in these areas and work to disengage detainees from violence.

The educational programs offered to detainees were developed in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Education

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A juvenile detainee participates in an art class at the Dar al-Hikmah Juvenile Education Center (JEC) in western Baghdad. The JEC is one of the educational programs provided to detainees in the care and custody of Coalition forces. Department of Defense photo.

Soldiers help Secure Town for Citizens Group

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER — U.S. Soldiers conducted a cordon and search with Iraqi policemen from the 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, in Jama Taha, a small village outside Jisr Diyala, Jan. 8.

The Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to the 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, also assisted the area's local citizens by setting up four checkpoints around the village.

"We've been there a few times in the last month to get the know the area," said

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1044 Graduate Police College

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Police were in the spotlight Jan. 9, as the Ministry of Interior held its 86th annual Police Day ceremony highlighting the police forces' growing numbers and capabilities.

It was a day filled with celebrations, chanting and ceremonies to honor the police across the country.

At Baghdad Police College, minister of interior Jawad al Bolani said, "We must prohibit partisanship and sectarianism in the ranks of the employees of the ministry. We must think of ourselves as Iraqis first."

Speaking before 2,200 in attendance, Bolani praised the awakening councils and the Concerned Local Citizens groups for their efforts in improving security.

"They were the first spark," said Bolani of the awakening council in Al-Anbar. "This is the people beginning to refuse the al-Qaida concept. They patriotically rejected al-Qaida ideology and fought back against the militia groups."

The cooperation of the citizens represents an important link in the security work, Bolani added. Creating this bond with the people is an important link for

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A Kiowa Warrior helicopter hovers in after a mission south of Baghdad, Dec. 8. The 17th Cavalry Regiment's helicopters have flown over 20,000 hours since May, 2007. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills.

Cavalry Hits 20,000 Flight Hours

CAMP STRIKER — An air cavalry unit in Iraq has found itself ringing in the New Year by flying to a remarkable milestone.

The 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment's Kiowa Warrior helicopters have collectively flown over 20,000 flight hours since arriving here in May, 2007.

The squadron is on pace to fly nearly 40,000 hours during their 15-month deployment and have managed to maintain a readiness rate of nearly 92 percent fully mission capable, said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Cavaco, production control officer, 3-17th Cav. Regt.

The Kiowa Warrior, a two-seat scout helicopter based on an airframe that dates to the Vietnam War, has gone through a multitude of changes over the years. From a simple largely-unarmed scout helicopter it has been transformed into a scout plat-

form able to fire Hellfire missiles, rockets and machine guns.

The 3-17th Cav. Regt., from the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., is currently attached to the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), 3rd Infantry Division.

Their flight hours have been spent in combat south of Baghdad, supporting Multi-National Division - Center where they have been used extensively supporting ground troops and their Iraqi security forces counterparts, said Lt. Co. Robert Wilson, executive officer, 3rd CAB.

The consensus among leaders at the 3rd CAB and 3-17th Cav. Regt. is that people are the most important factor in allowing the unit to reach this achievement.

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Iraqi Forces take Lead in Raids



F-16s, Apaches Hit AQI targets